

# El Clarín



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## CREETINGS FROM THE

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.** Let us begin by extending to you no deeper wishes than 1983 brings to all of you and your loved ones the realization of your dreams and continued good health and prosperity.

As I look back at 1983, I am pleased to announce that ASPIRA successfully achieved very significant goals during the Program Year. Thanks to your support, 1,764 ASPIRANTES were helped and received an array of services from counseling and tutoring, to leadership development training and job placement.

As of November 1984, ASPIRA established a base of operation in Jersey City to serve the youth of Hudson County. Thanks to the generosity of President Joseph P. Sora, ASPIRA secured office space at the Student Center of Hudson County Community College 65 Cottage St., Jersey City (201) 964-4746. This action taken by the Hudson County Community College reaffirms the strong relationship that exists between ASPIRA and institutions of higher education. By locating ASPIRA in the heart of the community, we can continue to work in partnership with educational institutions to improve the quality of life for the Hispanic youth of Hudson County.



Thanks to the assistance of Mr. Thomas Stanton, President First Jersey Bank, we began developing linkages in the business community in Hudson County in order to strengthen ASPIRA's development efforts there.

Concerning overall Agency finances, I am very pleased to announce that the end of 1983 found ASPIRA in very sound financial standing. This is clearly attributed to the commitment and support that we receive from all of our contributors who believe as we do that the youth in our communities are our most valuable resources.

## ASPIRA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 18 - Health Careers Fair
- April 27 - ASPIRA CONNECTION  
Alumni Dinner
- May 4 - Health Professions  
Conference
- May 11 - 3rd Annual Pascual  
County Fellowship  
Dinner/Dance
- June - ASPIRA Annual Awards  
Ceremony

Under the capable leadership of Mr. Rafael Valencia, Chairperson of the ASPIRA Board of Directors, the major thrust in 1985 will be in addressing program and administrative issues that will have a tremendous impact on our service to Hispanic youth. These are:

1. Focusing on the devastating dropout rate of Hispanic students and developing programs and collaborative efforts to combat this problem.
2. Securing a building to accommodate ASPIRA's program needs and to ensure stability.
3. Expanding job training and placement services.

Finally, you will be hearing about the "ASPIRA CONNECTION" which is the organization's effort to strengthen the network of ASPIRA Alumni as a resource for the continued growth and enrichment of ASPIRA's work. The first activity in living 8 hours together on a theme planned for April 27. We are asking all former ASPIRANTES, staff, Board members and volunteers to contact the Newark Office (201) 642-8888 for further information.

My closing statement to you is that ASPIRA has established itself as an institution in the larger New Jersey community. Your continued affiliation guarantees an investment in a bright future for all of us!

## CORNELL UNIVERSITY

**WELCOMES ASPIRANTES.** The Admissions Office of Cornell University in Ithaca, NY hosted a two day ASPIRA Recruitment activity on December 6 & 7, 1984.

Spent ASPIRA staff members accompanied thirty ASPIRANTES from high schools in Essex, Hudson and Passaic Counties on this Field Trip which was designed to provide exposure to an Ivy League school, information on career programs, and academic requirements for possible acceptance to Cornell.

The ASPIRANTES were taken on a tour of the University, visited the various colleges, and attended information sessions on Applying to Cornell, Financial Aid Programs, and Minority Support Services. Cornell provided the transportation, all meals, and lodged ASPIRA students with Cornell students.

ASPIRA thanks Mr. Ann Tuck, Director of University Admissions, and Mr. Rudy Seales, Activity Coordinator, for having this enlightening activity and for their interest in the recruitment of ASPIRANTES for Cornell.



**ASPIRA'S LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** and La Casa de Don Pedro commemorated a Three Kings' Day Celebration on Sunday, Jan. 6, 1985 at La Casa de Don Pedro's Youth Center in Newark, N.J.

Students from ASPIRA programs and La Casa's Youth Center programs attended this celebration with their families.

Over two hundred parents, students and children joined to commemorate the celebration of the holiday season with this cultural tradition. Participants engaged in the singing of Spanish folk songs, enjoyed spanish delicacies, and listened to presentations on the cultural significance of the holiday. Children delighted in receiving gifts presented by the Three Kings.

ASPIRA was thrilled to have the community at large celebrate this traditional holiday in harmony and good will.

## ASPIRA'S CAREER DAY

**CONFERENCE.** "To spark my life", stated an ASPIRANTE at the 8th Annual ASPIRA Career Day Conference, cosponsored by Montclair State College on Dec. 15, 1984. Dr. Donald Walters, President of Montclair State, opened the conference with the Latin definition of ASPIRA (ASPIRARE), which translates as "the breath of life".

The Keynote Speaker, Mr. Eli Baugus, Deputy Director of the Potomac Department of Human Resources, detailed the importance of education and involvement within the community by sharing his personal and professional experiences.

Passaic County ASPIRANTES were exposed to various careers, in workshops that were designed to be experiential rather than classroom lectures. Despite the cold weather on that day, the students eagerly toured the college campus.

This activity was a feature of the ASPIRA Talent Search Program as part of its outreach effort to gear ASPIRANTES toward post-secondary education opportunities. We wish to thank Montclair State College for its assistance.

## HISPANICS IN HIGH TECH

On November 14, 1984, the ASPIRA Business Careers Program held its 4th Annual Engineering Conference at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). ASPIRANTES from Essex, Hudson and Passaic Counties had the opportunity to explore the different fields of Engineering. The Educational Opportunity Program of NJIT cosponsored the event.

Workshops in electrical, mechanical, chemical, civil, and industrial engineering were included as part of the program. Leadership for these sessions included Hispanic Engineering students who provided the ASPIRANTES with insight into the rigorous preparation needed to pursue such challenging careers.

Mr. Juan Valdes Electrical Engineer with RJ Bell, was featured as this year's Keynote Speaker. He highlighted the need for developing Hispanic leadership in the field of Engineering, as well as for increasing the number of Hispanics in the profession.

A special thanks goes out to everyone at NJIT for their continued support of ASPIRA's mission.



## WINE ACTIVITIES

Winehouse Ball, Ballerina, Coordinator  
Editors: Rosette Goss, Donna Lerman, Sita Anders  
Photographer: Steve Skingard

